

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 08857 291544Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05  
/082 W

-----291715Z 021787 /44

R 291507Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1120  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN  
USIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 8857

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY  
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 29

1. MEDIA HAILED ARREST OF ONE OF WOULD-BE ASSASSINS  
OF FONMIN KHADDAM AND SOME ACCOMPLICES AND HIGHLIGHTED  
IRAQI COMPLICITY IN CRIME. PRESS HEADLINED: "ARREST  
OF NUMBER OF TRAITORS WHO COMMITTED CRIME OF FIRING AT  
KHADDAM. CRIMINALS' CONFESSIONS CONFIRM THEIR CONNECTION  
WITH BAGHDAD REGIME KILLERS." OFFICIAL STATEMENT DIRECTLY  
ACCUSED IRAQ OF PERPETRATING THESE INCIDENTS (DETAILS  
FOLLOW SEPTTEL).

2. PRESS EDITORIALS FOCUSED ON ARRESTS AND ALLEGED  
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 08857 291544Z

IRAQI IOMPLICTY. AL-BAATH EDITORIAL CLAIMED SYRIA  
HAS ABILITY TO RETALIATE AGAINST SUCH "PRIMITIVE  
BANDIT METHODS" BUT INSTEAD CHOSE TAKE HIGH ROAD.  
EDITORIAL CLAIMED EXTERNAL IRAQI TERRORISM PARALLELS  
CURRENT WAVE OF INTERNAL IRAQI TERRORISM AND STATED  
THIS WAS SIGN OF DESPERATION OF IRAQI REGIME. EDITORIAL

WENT ON TO SAY SUCH DESPERATIT NORMALLY ENDS IN SUICIDE  
BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER IRAQI PEOPLE WILL GIVE REGIME  
TIME FOR SUCH ACTION. FINALLY, EDITORIAL INDICATED  
WOULD-BE ASSASSINS WILL BE DEALT WITH AS OTHERS WHO  
ATTEMPTED TO EXECUTE PREVIOUS IRAQI PLOTS AGAINST SYRIA.  
SECOND EDITORIAL STRUCK SAME CHORDS, INDICATING IRAQI  
ISOLATION WITHIN INTER-ARAB COUNCILS AND STATING HISTORY  
NOT LIKELY SHOW MERCY TO "PERPETRATORS OF DEVIATION AND  
TERRORISM." TISHRIIN COLUMNIST WENT EVEN FARTHER,  
ACCUSING "TAKRITI CLIQUE" OF BEING BEHIND BAGHDAD  
AIRPORT OUTRAGE TO EMBARRASS SYRIA. EDITORIAL AFFIRMED  
FAITH IN VERDICT OF IRAQI PEOPLE AND HISTORY AGAINST  
PRESENT BAGHDAD REGIME.

3. LEBANESE PRIMIN HUSS QUOTED FROM CAIRO EXPRESSING  
BELIEF QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE HAD REACHED SATISFACTORY  
SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. ARAFAT MENTIONED IN SAME ARTICLE

AS PLEDGING TO SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN BEIRU EVENING DECEMBER  
28 TO ADHERE TO EVERYTHING AGREED UPON IN QUADRIPARTITE  
COMMITTEE METINGS.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS SUMMARIES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Draft Date:** 29 DEC 1976  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Film Number:** D760475-0192  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, SY  
**To:** STATE  
AMMAN  
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